



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN & POLITICAL FINANCE

ONE ASHBURTON PLACE, ROOM 1007
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108
(617) 727-8352
(800) 462-OCPF

MARY F. MCTIGUE
DIRECTOR

September 19, 1989
AO-89-22

John W. Blake
Treasurer
The Baker Committee
c/o William M. Cousins, Jr.
106 Benvenue Street
Wellesley, MA 02181

Dear Mr. Blake:

This letter is in response to your recent request for an advisory opinion.

You are treasurer of The Baker Committee (the "Committee"), a political committee established on behalf of Charles Baker. You have stated that Mr. Baker is considering running for statewide office in 1990. As a former Under Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Mr. Baker believes that the health care issue will remain a critical issue in the 1990 governor's race. Mr. Baker believes that the primary issues facing the Commonwealth turn on indigent care coverage, cost and source of payment and matters of chronic long-term care. He thinks that the recent Massachusetts legislation is most relevant, but in some respects experience in Canada, the United Kingdom and California is equally or more relevant. It is your plan to continue past discussion with health officials in all three locations (at central and regional levels) as a basis for 1990 decisions. You would accompany Mr. Baker on trips to this locations as chairman of and advisor to the Committee.

Section 6 of M.G.L. c.55 states, in pertinent part, "[a] political committee organized or operating on behalf of a candidate for the office of governor . . . may receive, pay and expend money or other things of value for reasonable and necessary expenses directly related to the campaign of such candidate but shall not make any expenditure that is primarily for the candidate's or any other person's personal use

The regulations promulgated pursuant to section 6 further state that expenditures may be made for "reasonable travel and related expenses for a candidate and agents of political committee in connection with meetings, conferences or conventions, provided that the issues with which any such

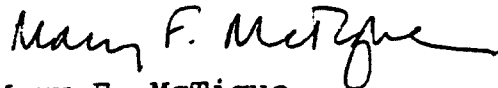
meeting, conference or convention is concerned are within the scope of that person's direct and substantial responsibilities as a candidate or agent of the committee, and whose subject matter is related to . . . substantive issues which are directly related to the campaign of the candidate." (970 C.M.R. 2.05(2)(1)).

It is the opinion of this office that travel undertaken by Mr. Baker and you as an agent of the Committee in order to further research health care issues in the United Kingdom, Canada and California may be paid for by the Committee. While this office does not routinely view expenses associated with international travel as reasonable expenses for statewide candidates, the special circumstances of the substantive issues directly concerning Mr. Baker's campaign for governor appear to warrant the treatment of such expenses as within the scope of the statute and the regulations. We would caution you, however, that as with all expenditures, accurate records of expenditures made by the Committee in connection with international travel must be maintained. This office will scrutinize such records to ensure that all such expenditures were made in connection with a meeting, conference or convention concerning the pertinent substantive issues and were not personal in nature.

This opinion is based solely on the representations made in your letter and solely in the context in M.G.L. c.55.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office should you have additional questions.

Very truly yours,



Mary F. McTigue
Director

MFM/wp